

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505

June 6, 1978

Chancellor Alexander Heard  
Vanderbilt University  
West End Avenue  
Nashville, Tennessee 37203

Dear Chancellor Heard:

As you may know from recent media coverage, the Central Intelligence Agency recently located several thousand documents relating to activities funded by the CIA as a part of Project MKULTRA in the 1950s and 1960s. That Project involved the sponsorship by the Agency of research concerning human behavior patterns. In the late 1960s and early 1970s, MKULTRA was terminated and replaced in part by a limited program of financial grants intended to carry on a portion of the research effort begun under MKULTRA. Recently the Agency discovered a small number of documents relating to these grants.

Until these documents were found it was believed that virtually all such records were destroyed in 1973. These newly-discovered documents consist largely of financial records, however, and add only fragmentary substantive information concerning the nature and extent of these activities. What the documents do add to our knowledge of these programs is information regarding the identities of individuals and institutions involved in these activities and the funding mechanisms used to conceal CIA interest. In some cases these individuals and institutions apparently were aware of CIA sponsorship but in many cases it appears the individuals or institutions, or both, were not informed that the research was connected in any way with CIA. The documents which are enclosed with this letter identify Vanderbilt University as one of the institutions at which some portion of this CIA-sponsored research apparently was performed. Further, these documents indicate this research was a continuation of a project begun under Subproject 93 of MKULTRA, a determination we could not make previously since the documents relating to that subproject, also enclosed, do not identify any institution as the site of that research.

**APPROVED FOR RELEASE**

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While we recognize this may be unwelcome news, we believe we have an obligation to advise you of this fact so that you may initiate such action as you deem necessary to protect the interests of your institution in the event this information should somehow become public. These documents are in the same form in which they have been released to the public under the Freedom of Information Act, except that, for your information, the identity of the University has been reinserted where it appears in the original materials. This Agency does not intend to reveal to the public the identities of any institutions or individuals that knowingly or unknowingly were involved in these activities. The decision concerning the manner in which you and your institution choose to treat this matter is, of course, yours alone. Since we are under pressure to release these institutional identities, we would appreciate being advised, however, as to whether you intend to make this matter public or whether you believe it to be preferable that we continue to protect the identity of your institution. In the latter case, we shall exert every effort to protect that identity, although, given the uncertain nature of the judicial process under the Freedom of Information Act, there can be no guarantee we shall ultimately be successful in this effort. Finally, it is our opinion, concurred in by the Department of Justice, that we are not free under the Privacy Act of 1974, to disclose to you the name of any individual affiliated with your institution who participated in the activities in question.

Please address your correspondence and inquiries in this regard to the undersigned. I shall try to answer any questions you might have, or furnish any assistance you may desire in this regard.

Very truly yours,

  
R. R. Cinquegrana  
Assistant General Counsel

Enclosure